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## NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

**LEPROSY APPARENTLY CURED.**—Twenty-three of the former inmates of the Culion Leper Colony were brought to Manila for observation and examination, to determine whether the treatment with chaulmoogra oil administered to them at the colony had been effective. Three physicians who examined them agreed that there were no longer any indications of the disease present.

**WOUNDS AND MAGNESIUM CHLORID.**—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* mentions the report by a Paris surgeon of the good results obtained by dressing wounds with a 1-2 per cent solution of magnesium chlorid. Healing is more rapid than with the usual antiseptics, prolonged suppuration and cytolysis (cell disintegration) are avoided.

**MENSTRUATION AFTER CHILDBIRTH.**—*The American Journal of Obstetrics* says that the debilitating influence exerted by labor and later by the loss of blood fluids while nursing the child temporarily arrests ovulation. As soon as the disturbed equilibrium is restored, menstruation recommences. This occurs sooner in strong, healthy women than in weak delicate ones. In the majority of cases it is established before the child is weaned and therefore menstruation begins before lactation ends.

**MAGNET FOR EXTRACTION OF FOREIGN BODIES.**—The eye infirmary at Lyons has been fitted up as a base hospital and the giant magnet intended to extract particles of metal from the eyes is used in locating and extracting scraps of shells and bullets from the thigh, neck and back, as well as from the eyes. It has been suggested that a long thin magnet might be introduced into the esophagus, stomach and air passages to draw out metal foreign bodies.

**INTRAVENOUS INJECTIONS WITHOUT DISTILLED WATER.**—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* says that a French surgeon, in service on the firing line, has discovered that ordinary boiled water can be used for intravenous injections without harm if the tip of the syringe is pressed down upon a wad of cotton at the bottom of the dish in which the water was boiled, thus effectually filtering it.

**DETECTION OF EPILEPSY.**—A writer in a German medical journal gives a number of points in which an epileptic seizure differs from a

hysterical spasm. In epilepsy, twitching of the face muscles predominates; in hysteria, those of the trunk and limbs are most affected. In the former, the spasmodic movements occur on one side of the body; in the latter, the whole of the upper part of the body, or the legs alone are involved. After an epileptic attack the person feels prostrated and takes long to recover, after an hysterical attack recuperation is rapid and complete. Plantar flexion of the big toe is a reliable sign of true epilepsy, not occurring in hysteria.

WOMEN PHYSICIANS IN ENGLAND.—*The Medical Record* says the status of the woman physician in England has changed greatly since the beginning of the war. Positions on hospital staffs, hitherto held exclusively by men, are now offered to women, and the demand is considerably in excess of the supply. In some cases salaries double those received by men before the war are offered.

MEASLES.—*The Journal of Infectious Diseases* reports from a study of 254 cases of measles and from recent laboratory work on the disease, the following conclusions. The minimal period from exposure to first symptoms was seven days, the maximal fourteen days, average eleven days. The shortest period from the onset of the first symptoms to the appearance of the rash was one day, the longest seven days, the average three days. The shortest period from exposure to the appearance of the rash was eleven days, the longest nineteen days, the average thirteen and a half days. Measles may be ineffective as early as five days before the rash can be seen. The appearance of the rash marks probably the height of the infectiousness of the disease. This does not extend beyond seven days after the rash appears and is probably shorter. Disinfection after measles is useless and unnecessary. Transmission of measles by third persons and fomites must be exceedingly rare, if it occurs at all.

MEDICINE A PROFESSION.—In addressing the Mississippi Valley Medical Association, the president, Dr. Hugh Cabot, of Boston, said medicine had always been regarded as a learned profession, but the tendency of a profession to degenerate into a trade was ever present. A profession is an occupation requiring an education in science and which is pursued for its own sake. A trade, on the other hand, is an occupation which is pursued chiefly, though not wholly, for the purpose of acquiring wealth.

LACTIC ACID TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS.—At the Forest Sanatorium at Davos, devoted to the camp tubercular patients, it was found that weak solutions of lactic acid readily destroy tubercle bacilli growing in culture. One per cent solutions of lactic acid were injected intravenously in incipient bases of pulmonary tuberculosis. The results

are said to have been brilliant. It is suitable only for early cases of the disease.

**STERILIZATION OF FEEBLE-MINDED.**—*The Medical Record* notes that operations for sterilization, the first under the new Wisconsin law, were performed recently on the male inmates ranging from fifteen to thirty years of age, at the Wisconsin State Home for Feeble-minded, Chippewa Falls.

**GOAT-MILK IN TUBERCULOSIS.**—A herd of thirty-six goats from the United States Department of Agriculture, has been sent to the Sea View Sanitarium, Staten Island, where the experiment of giving goat milk to the tuberculous patients is to be tried.

**ARREST OF HEMORRHAGE WITH A SCRAP OF MUSCLE.** *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, in a synopsis from a German medical journal, relates remarkable success in promptly arresting hemorrhage by pressing on the bleeding spot a piece of muscle tissue taken from the vicinity, crushed a little first in a clamp to make it stick better and bring the blood platelets more to the surface. It sticks itself after it has been pressed on the bleeding spot for a few seconds to two minutes.

**SUGAR INSTEAD OF SALINE INFUSIONS.**—The same journal states that a German medical authority warns against the use of salt as directly injurious to the abnormally sensitive epithelium in the kidney. When an infusion is indicated and the kidneys are below par, an isotonic sugar solution should be used instead of the ordinary saline. This is recommended as a routine treatment in cholera, the kidneys usually being seriously impaired, the lesions resembling those caused by poisoning with mercuric chlorid. Saline infusion tends to aggravate the kidney lesions while a 4-5 per cent solution of grape sugar is harmless and supplies a certain amount of nourishment.

**PORTABLE DARK CHAMBER.**—A Danish medical journal recommends as useful for ophthalmoscopy in the sick room, or where light cannot easily be excluded, a dark chamber made from an umbrella with a drop curtain all around it.

**HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION.**—A German medical journal advocates the use of asphalt covered with cork linoleum for hospital floors. This renders them elastic and waterproof. Sheets of cork on both sides of the wall effectually deaden sounds between adjoining rooms.